



St. John the Baptist Parish, Estevan

Pastoral Care Update

St. John the Baptist Parish has several members of our parish family living in our local senior residences. As we look forward to enhancing our Pastoral Care Ministry for parishioners who reside in these homes, we are actively looking for anyone who would like to join in this joy filled ministry. We are in the beginning stages of building lay service teams for each residence. We will work in teams of 3-5 for each service. Each team will include a musician, 2 readers and hospitality ministers. We will provide all materials and training. This is truly one of the most rewarding ministries you will ever have the pleasure of participating in. If you are interested in being part of one of our Senior Residence Ministry Teams please contact Gwen Van De Woestyne at the Parish Office or cell (306)421-9733.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

COLLECTION REPORT

2021 Projected Expenses \$490,989.00

2021 Actual Collection Year to Date \$183,473.31

Month of July 2021

Monthly Collection Required \$33,740.00

July Sunday Collection \$23,652.00



CWL 50/50 Raffle

St. John the Baptist, Estevan CWL are so very grateful for the generosity provided by friends, family, and the community throughout the current 50/50 raffle ticket fundraiser. Limited tickets are still available to purchase. CWL members are reminded to return ticket sales and stubs by calling 421-7538 or 634-2331, placing them into the offering basket at Mass - in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "CWL", or dropping them off at the Parish Office. Thank you for your support.





Homily Corner

Last weekend, we celebrated the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The first reading was 1 Kings 19:4-8, the Responsorial Psalm was Psalm 34, the second reading was Ephesians 4:30-5:2 and the Gospel reading was John 6:41-51.

Today we continue to reflect on the Eucharistic Discourse in the third week of a five part series on the Gospel of John. In last week's Gospel, we had the controversial exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees when they didn't want to hear the truth. And in the first reading we saw the people complaining. It is interesting to note that in other translations of the Bible, the words grumpy and murmuring are used instead of complain. The word complain carries over in today's Gospel reading. We see it used two times.

In the first reading this week, we have another beautiful reading about the prophet Elijah. To understand the complete story, please read the parts before and after this reading at home. Like all the prophets, Elijah was called and commissioned to proclaim the eternal truth. Quite often they were stoned, exiled or even killed for sharing the Word. Elijah was in the town of Jezreel and the Queen was not pleased with Elijah. Even though her husband was the King, she controlled him. They had told their nation that they were gods and were angry that Elijah was proclaiming the True God. She declared that Elijah would be dead by the next evening. Elijah was scared and he ran away to the desert. He had had enough and he wanted to die. He fell asleep. The Angel of the Lord woke him up and told him to eat. There was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and went back to sleep. He still wanted to die. The Angel came again and told him to get up and eat. Even though Elijah wanted to die, his life journey would be long and large. With the power of the bread and water he ate, he journeyed for forty days with no other food. And we see Elijah become a great prophet.

We complain about many things. In the Gospel we see the people complaining because he said, "I am the bread of life that came down from heaven." They were saying that Jesus was the son of Joseph and Mary who they knew. How could he have come down from heaven? When Jesus answers them, he does not back down like we sometimes do when we are pressured. He pushes back harder. He tells the people that it is their misunderstanding, their ignorance and they should learn this way. He again says that he is the Bread of Life and that this is true even if you don't agree. He tells them that if they listen to him and receive him as the Bread of Life, they will live forever. He emphasizes this because it is the truth and it always will be. He then moves forward strongly and tells them that the bread he will give for the life of the world is the bread his flesh. Next week he will interpret what the word flesh means.

In our lives, our community, our families, we know people who are scared, stressed, hopeless, without love, with an absence of meaning in their lives. Our stewardship, our discipleship is to be an angel to those people who feel like they are ready to give up. When we are nourished by the Bread of Life, we will not give up. Just like Elijah was sustained with the bread and water for the long journey ahead of him. We will help others. We cannot give up on anyone. We can pray for them and invite them to be nourished by the Bread of Life. We can show them that it is not just Holy Communion, but it is truly Jesus. That we receive the Bread of Life every time we receive Holy Communion. We can assure them that they will no longer be hungry or thirsty. The Bread of Life, Jesus, will satisfy their every need.

As we reflect on the holy scriptures this week, we should ask ourselves: When I look at my life, who was an angel for me? And who can I be an angel for?

God Bless!

—Father Antony